

Department of County Human Services



Thursday, February 27, 2025

Representative Hartman, Chair
House Early Childhood & Human Services Committee
900 Court Street, NE
Salem, OR 97301

Re: HB 3560 - By right zoning for child care centers in residential zones

Chair Hartman, Vice Chairs Scharf & Nguyen, and Members of the Committee,

Multnomah County is in year three of implementing Preschool for All, which will create free universal preschool by 2030 for children and families in our community. We remain on track to meet that goal, and one of the hurdles we face is having enough early learning facilities to serve 11,000 children by 2030.

Child care is an integral part of our community. It provides children with enriching learning environments and caring educators, helping them learn the skills that they need for future success. Parents can work and attend college when they have stable early learning opportunities for their children. Additionally, employers benefit when their workers have access to child care.

In spite of this, it is incredibly challenging for new child care locations to open, even with the additional support that Multnomah County's Preschool for All offers. **HB 3560 supports efforts to find additional suitable child care locations.** The legislation would create by-right zoning for child care centers in residential zones when they are co-located with another community use, including a community center, church, or school, or apartment complex. This legislation would save eligible child care providers from months of unnecessary work and \$20,000+ of costs that often accompany Conditional Use Permitting processes.

Preschool providers in Multnomah County struggle to find spaces that work well for early learning, even when they have access to stable funding and increased support. We need solutions that recognize the importance of child care in our state for children, families, businesses, and our economy as a whole and make it easier for new early learning spaces to be created.

Department of County Human Services



We urge you to support HB 3560 to increase the viable locations for child care centres across Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Pearl".

Rachel Pearl
Deputy Director
Department of County Human Services

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Langford".

Rachel Langford
Early Care and Education Program Manager
Craft3 / BuildUp Oregon